A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 28. 1708.

AND what will the *French* do next, ſay our buſie Enquirers now, if the Duke of *Savoy* ſhould break into *Dauphiné*, while he has ſuch an Army with him, and they are ſo inferiour to him; he may do what he pleaſes, he may ravage from *Lyons* to *Thoulon*, he may cut off *Dauphiné* and *Provence*, open the Door into *Languedoc*, and put Arms into the Hands of the *Cevennois*, and where are we then? Then *France* comes down all at once, and the great Monarch muſt account for all the Blood he has ſhed to gratifie his Cruelty and Ambition.

Thus we run away with things aforehand, and make nothing of Conquering whole Provinces on the leaſt Advantage, but *Soft and Fair*; the Duke of *Savoy* has done Wonders (to ſpeak *a la modern*) to trick the Mareſchal *De Villars*, and cut him off from the Paſſes; and if now he can carry the Forts of *Exilles* and *Feneſtrelles*, and thereby lock up the Paſſages out of *Dauphiné* into his own Country, he does a very great Piece of Work, and I ſhould think that and laying ſome Part of *Dauphiné* under Contribution, a very good Summers Work; as much more as you will, but I would be far from complaining if we get that.

But it is worth while to enquire, what makes the *French* ſo low every where, how comes it that they are ſo out-number'd on all ſides? The Duke of *Savoy* ſuperiour, the Elector of *Hannover* ſuperiour, and the Duke of *Marlborough* ſuperiour? this is not according

according to the ordinary Rate of Things. —But the Reaſon is plain, the numerous Garriſons he maintains in *Flanders*, and the Pains taken to appear ſuperiour there this Year, has made him leave himſelf open on the ſide of *Savoy*, as a Place he did not expect to be ſo hard preſs'd in— Again, the Numbers of Men detach'd into *Spain*, where, including Garriſons, the *French* have at this Time above 50000 Men ſcatter'd about in *Valencia*, *Andaluſia*, *Arragon*, *Rouſſillion*, *Catalognia*, and on the Frontiers of *Portugal*. This has dreyn'd the *French* Armies, and expos'd them to the Inſults of the Duke of *Savoy*, and the Opportunity is very promiſing; the *French* have not one Part of their Affairs, from whence they can ſend the Mareſchal *De Villars* any Relief; the Elector of *Bavaria*, they ſay, has ſent him a Detachment of 8000 Men, and it is the only Relief he muſt expect——It is true, that there are Forces left in *Provence*, which when they ſee to what Part the Duke of *Savoy* will fix, they may draw out, and perhaps 12000 Men may be brought that way; but if theſe are not ſufficient, or the Mareſchal *De Villars* ſhould receive any Blow, the Troops in *Catalognia* and *Rouſſillion* muſt march; as it is evident from the Affair of *Thoulon*, when the Duke of *Berwick* was order'd with 8000 Men out of *Catalognia* to reinforce the Mareſchal *De Theſſe*. Thus puſhing *France* upon her own Frontiers, it is the only way to relieve thoſe remote Parts, where *France* has the Advantage of us, and will effectually oblige her to recall her Troops from puſhing foreign Conqueſts, to defend her own.

But O the *Rhine*, the *Rhine!* What a ſtrange and unaccountable Thing is this Army upon the *Rhine*, an Army with neither Legs nor Hands, for ſo is an Army without Pay, without Money, and without Magazines; they can neither march nor act. —The little Effort the Elector of *Hannover* had made towards the *Upper Alſace*, is found impracticable, and Count *Mercy* is coming back again; the *French* are at leaſt equal to them, tho' a Detachment is made to *Dauphiné*, and nothing is to be expected there. Infatuated *Germans!* that are purſuing your Quarrels with the Pope, and ſecuring your Footing in *Italy*, but neglect the pulling down your Capital Enemy, the Rival of all your Glories; that has diſpoſſeſs'd you of ſo many Towns and Countries, beaten you in ſo many Battles, ſo often inſulted your Provinces, ravaged your Frontiers, and laid whole Circles under Contribution.

Well, we are to expect little there. But in *Flanders* the Sum of the Matter is to be try'd, if ever *France* can make a Stand againſt the Confederate Army, it muſt be now; 60000 Men, they ſay, is the utmoſt the Duke of *Marlborough* can ſpare to cover the Siege of *Liſle*, the Garriſon is numerous, the Circumference large, and leſs than 40000 Men cannot carry on that Siege.

If then the Numbers the *French* have told us of, have any thing of Truth in them, they may in conjunction with the Duke of *Berwick* bring 80000 Men into the Field, and would they do that, I ſhould not be ſorry to hear, they were heartily engaged on the fair Field; for tho' the Superiority is large, and the Odds of 20000 Men very great, yet if we are not too much flatter'd in the Matter of Troops, and partial to our ſelves, we ſhould hope, the Duke of *Marlborough* with 60000 Men would be able to deal with them in the Field, and give a very good Account of them.

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MISCELLANEA.

HEre follows the ſeveral Anſwers of the Miniſters, as they were brought before the Magiſtrates, and the Magiſtrates Sentence thereupon.

2d. March, 1708.

Mr. *George Grahame* Defendant preſent, and examin'd anent the Libel, judicially acknowledg'd he keeps an Houſe in *Edinburgh*, wherein he exerciſes publick Prayers, and allows all to be preſent who have any mind to come, and that he reads Prayers in the Service-Book, where her Majeſty's Name Queen *ANNE* is expreſs'd, but does not read her Name, neither does he pray for Her, nor keep Faſts and Thankſgiving-Days, except when they fall upon the Prayer Days; and acknowledg'd, he is not quallified conform to Law by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and ſubſcribing the ſame with the Aſſurance to her Majeſty Queen *ANNE*.

Mr. *Robert Cheyne* Defendant preſent, refus'd to anſwer to the Libel preſently, but crav'd to be allow'd to ſee the ſame, and to have a Double thereof, and time to anſwer thereto; the Magiſtrates allow'd the ſaid Defendant to ſee and anſwer the Libel againſt the Morrow Morning at 9 a Clock, and to have an Double of the Libel for that End.

Mr. *George Purves* Defendant preſent, and examin'd anent the Libel, judicially acknowledg'd he keeps an Meeting-Houſe in *Edinburgh*, and there preaches and prays, and in his Prayers he prays for her preſent Majeſty Queen *ANNE*, by expreſſing her Name, and prays alſo for the whole Royal Family, and that he is not quallified conform to Law by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and ſubſcribing the ſame with the Aſſurance to her Majeſty Queen *ANNE*, acknowledg'd, he did not keep the laſt Faſt in *January* laſt, becauſe the reſt of his Brethren did not keep it, and he deſir'd not to be ſingular.

Mr. *Robert Skeen* Defendant preſent, and examin'd anent the Libel, refus'd to anſwer thereto preſently, but crav'd to be allow'd to ſee the Libel, and have an Double thereof, and a Time to anſwer thereto, the Magiſtrates allow'd the ſaid Defendant to ſee and anſwer the Libel againſt the Morrow Morning at 9 a Clock, and to have an Double of the Libel for that end.

3d. March, 1708.

Mr. *Robert Cheyne*, and Mr. *Robert Skeen*, Defendants preſent, gave in an *Memorandum* containing dilatory Defences againſt the Libel, which were read, and the Magiſtrates allow'd the Defendants until *Friday* next at 10 of the Clock Forenoon, to anſwer the Libel.

4th. March, 1708.

Mr. *Geo. Barkley* Defendant preſent, and examin'd anent the Libel, judicially acknowledg'd, he is in uſe to pray for her preſent Majeſty Queen *ANNE*, and ſometimes expreſſes her Name, and that he is not quallified according to Law by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and ſubſcribing the ſame with the Aſſurance; declar'd he did not keep the laſt Faſt in *January* laſt, but that he would have kept the ſame if he had been deſir'd ſo to do: And being interrogate, if he would yet quallifie himſelf, declar'd, that hitherto he had given no juſt Ground of Jealouſie to the Government, and deſir'd he may not be troubled on that Account.

Mr. *David Ranken* Defendant preſent, and examin'd anent the Libel, refus'd to anſwer thereto, in Regard that he and ſeveral others had appointed Mr. *William Abercrombie* Defendant, to crave an Delay and an competent Time to anſwer thereto. Thereafter Mr. *William Abercrombie* and others being preſent, Mr. *Abercrombie* in Name of ſaid Defendants, and in the Name of Mr. *George Hendrey* and Mr.

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Da. Freebairn, crav'd that ten Days may be allow'd to them to anſwer the Libel; the Magiſtrates allow'd them to ſee and anſwer the ſame againſt *Saturday* next at 10 of the Clock Forenoon, and they crav'd to be allow'd to anſwer the ſame againſt *Tueſday* next at 10 of the Clock Forenoon, which was granted accordingly; and Mr. *Adam Peacock* alledg'd, he was quallified by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and ſubſcribing the ſame with the Aſſurance to her Majeſty Queen *ANNE*, to which the Purſuer anſwer'd that he had no Certificate to produce of his Quallification, and altho' he had it, yet he was depriv'd by an Sentence, and depos'd by the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly, which Sentence was produc'd.

5th March, 1708.

The Defendants Mr. *Adam Cant*, Mr. *George Skeen*; Mr. *Skeen* abſent, and not compearing, the Magiſtrates allow'd them an farther Time to anſwer the Libel upon *Tueſday* next.

9th March, 1708.

The Defendants Mr. *William Abercrombie* & *al.* preſent, gave Anſwer to the Libel in Writing, and Mr. *Robert* .... and Mr. *Robert Skeen* further anſwer'd, that they were in uſe to pray for the Queen *Nominatim*, and Mr. *Robert Skeen* declar'd he was warranted from the Defendant Mr. *Andrew Cant*, to declare that he adhered to the ſaid Anſwers; the Magiſtrates delay'd the Conſideration of the Libel, and anſwers until *Friday* next at 10 of the Clock in the Forenoon, and ordain'd all Parties to attend againſt the Time.

12 *March*, 1708.

The Magiſtrates adjourn'd the Dyet of this Proceſs, till the Morrow Forenoon at 10 of the Clock, and ordains all Parties to attend that Dyet.

The Remainder will follow in our next.

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†††† *She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand-Court, over againſt great Turnſtile in Holborn.*